

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 EURE-00 /062 W

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O R 221643Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 782

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

OSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WPAFB OH/YP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJ: DANES AGAIN DEFER LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER

DECISION

SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER TOLD NEWSMEN TODAY  
THAT A CABINET RECOMMENDATION ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER  
HAD AGAIN BEEN DEFERRED. HE SPOKE WITH THE PRESS AFTER  
LEAVING THE CABINET MEETING, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO  
MAKE SUCH A RECOMMENDATION. END SUMMARY.

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1) THE PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, JORGEN GERSING, SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THE DCM THAT PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN WHO IS IN OLSO, HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S CABINET MEETING. GERSING SAID NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR REACHING A CABINET DECISION, BUT IT WAS HIS "IMPRESSION" THAT IT WOULD ONLY BE AFTER THE PLANS OF THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS HAVE BECOME CLEAR. IT WAS EVIDENT, HE SAID, THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD WELCOMED THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE THEY ARE HAVING "SOME TROUBLE" WITH THE RADICAL PARTY.

2) OTHER OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE DANES ARE STILL CONCERNED OVER THE SITUATION IN THE NETHERLANDS AND, CHARACTERISTICALLY, DO NOT WISH TO DECLARE THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT THEY ARE NOT GETTING OUT OF LINE WITH THEIR CONSORTIUM PARTNERS. THEY ARE AWARE THAT 102 AIRCRAFT ORIGINALLY PROJECTED AND ARE CONCERNED AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE MEETING SCHEDULED IN EARLY MAY BETWEEN DUTCH AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS. THE DANES (AND PRESUMABLY THE NORWEGIANS) HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED TO THIS MEETING AND ARE WEIGHING WHETHER THEY SHOULD NOW ATTEMPT TO INVITE THEMSELVES OR MERELY AWAIT PASSIVELY THE OUTCOME OF THESE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. THE FIGHTER REPLACEMENT ISSUE HERE HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT REGULAR CABINET MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29.

3) MOLLER ALSO ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT THE BRITISH JAGUAR WAS ONCE AGAIN IN THE PICTURE IN THE EVENT THAT ONE OF THE THREE "CONSORTIUM FINALISTS" WAS NOT CHOSEN JOINTLY BY THE FOUR EUROPEAN NATIONS.

4) IN RECENT DAYS BERLINGSKE TIDENDE HAS FRONT-PAGED STATEMENTS BY THE SWedes AND BY DASSAULT EXTOLLING THE VIRTUES OF THE VIGGEN AND THE MIRAGE AND DENIGRATING THE F-16. THE SWEDISH CLAIMS, WHICH APPEAR APRIL 19, WERE ANSWERED THE NEXT DAY BY MOLLER WHO SAID THAT THE CONSORTIUM'S EXPERTS HAD PRESENTED EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE F-16 WAS THE SUPERIOR PLANE, WAS CHEAPER TO BUY AND TO OPERATE, AND THAT NOT ENOUGH FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE

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IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO MEET THE VIGGEN'S PURCHASE COST. WE HAVE GIVEN TRANSLATIONS OF THESE PRESS REPORTS TO GENERAL DYNAMICS REPRESENTATIVES WHO PLAN TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH THE BERLINGSKE CORRESPONDENT (AND PERHAPS OTHER JOURNALISTS) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION TO REBUT THE OBVIOUS INACCURACIES IN THE CLAIMS OF BOTH THE SWedes AND FRENCH.

5) COMMENT: WHILE TODAY'S POSTPONEMENT IS NOT GOOD NEWS, IT WAS PROBABLY ONLY TO BE EXPECTED AFTER THE DANES HAD LEARNED THAT THE SOUTHERN MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM WERE GOING TO HAVE A PRIVATE MEETING. AS IN MOST INSTANCES, THE DANES TWIST IN EVERY DIRECTION SO AS NOT TO HAVE TO GIVE A LEAD THEMSELVES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DELAY WILL GIVE MORE TIME TO THE OTHER CONTENDERS (AND OPPONENTS) TO MAKE NOISE AND THIS WILL NOW INCLUDE THE BRITISH. FOR ITS PART, THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY HAS JUST ANNOUNCED A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO COLLECT "HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS" OF SIGNATURES OPPOSING ANY PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT FIGHTER. OUR BEST TATIC WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO REMIND THE DANES OF THE CONSORTIUM EXPERTS' CONCLUSIONS, WHILE ENCOURAGING GENERAL DYNAMICS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

6) GERSING'S REFERENCE TO ""TROUBLE" WITH THE RADICALS IS PROBABLY WELL TAKEN, BUT IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME. WHAT MAY BE FAR MORE SERIOUS IS THE PROSPECT OF DEVISION WITHIN THE GOVERNING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH MOLLER AND OTHERS HAVE UP UNTIL NOW ASSURED US WOULD HOLD TOGETHER ON THIS ISSUE. THE ECHOES OF THE RECENT CONGRESS OF THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY HAVE BEEN CLEARLY HEARD HERE.

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## Message Attributes

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